

## MANAGEMENT OF SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD

**Kramer E**

University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa



Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the most critical medical emergency on the football field. In this time critical event, immediate recognition, on-field response, evaluation and initiation of external chest compression and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use is mandatory effective and efficient medical management. Planned, appropriate transfer from the field-of-play and transport to definitive critical cardiac care, with minimal interruption of external chest compressions and AED use, where appropriate, requires prior planning, regular training and disciplined clinical action, if and when necessary.

To ensure effective expeditious field-of-play SCA management globally, FIFA has committed itself to intense research and active education in SCA by the introduction of a series of programmes which include:

- the "FIFA 11 Steps to Prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in Football",
- introduction of the FIFA Medical Emergency Bag,
- the Prevention and Management of Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Football DVD (digital video disc) and accompanying booklet,
- establishment of a Sudden Cardiac Death registry in association with the Institute of Sports and Preventive Medicine in Saarbrücken, Germany,
- launch of the SCA in Football App(lication) for Smart Phones in association with the FIFA Centre of Excellence, Madrid,
- initiation of various basic and advanced football emergency medicine courses for referees and team healthcare providers internationally, to mention a few.

SCA on the football field-of-play requires specific adaption to current International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) guidelines.

It is therefore vital that all healthcare providers entrusted with the health and well-being of those on the football field-of-play remain up-to-date with SCA prevention and management.